

### **Lamotrigine: patients on valproate**

Sodium valproate doubles the plasma half life of lamotrigine, necessitating slow dose titration. Please prescribe lamotrigine as follows:

Week 1 & 2	25mg alternate days
Week 3 & 4	25mg nocte
Week 5 & 6	25mg bd
Week 6 & 7	25 mg, mane; 50mg nocte
Week 8 & 9	50mg bd
Week 10 & 11	50mg mane: 75mg nocte
Week 12 & 13	75mg bd

Up to 2 further dose increases of 25mg can be made, at intervals of not less than 2 weeks, and only if further seizures occur.

The patient should be warned to report any rash immediately. If rash does occur, the drug should be withdrawn immediately if the dose is 50mg or less, over 5 days if more. Please let us know if this happens. Irritability and sleep disturbances are also relatively common, and in some patients will pose enough of a problem to require withdrawal of the drug.

### **Lamotrigine Non Valproate**

Please prescribe lamotrigine as follows:

Week 1	25mg nocte
Week 2	25mg bd
Week 3	25 mg, mane; 50mg nocte
Week 4	50mg bd
Week 5	50mg mane: 75mg nocte
Week 6	75mg bd
Week 7	75mg mane: 100mg nocte
Week 8	100mg bd
Week 9	125mg bd
Week 10	150mg bd

Up to 2 further dose increases of 50mg can be made, at intervals of not less than 2 weeks, and only if further seizures occur.

The patient should be warned to report any rash immediately. If rash does occur, the drug should be withdrawn, immediately if the dose is 100mg or less, over 5 days if greater. Please let us know if this happens. Irritability and sleep disturbances are also relatively common, and in some patients will pose enough of a problem to require withdrawal of the drug.

### **Lamotrigine withdrawal:**

Withdraw by 100mg a week until the dose is 200mg per day then by 50mg per week until the dose is 100mg per day then by 25mg per week.